



**Village Manager's Report
The Week Ending April 22, 2016**

Meetings scheduled for next week:

- Saturday, April 23
 - Earth Fest, 10 a.m. – 2 p.m., Public Works Center
- Monday, April 25:
 - Village Board Special Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
 - Transportation Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
- Tuesday, April 26:
 - First Time Homebuyer Seminar, 6 p.m., room 130
 - Board of Health, 6 p.m., room 101
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 201
 - Liquor Control Review Board, 7:30 p.m., room 124
- Wednesday, April 27:
 - Forestry Sub-Committee, 6:45 p.m. room 201
 - Community Design Commission, 7 p.m., room 201
 - Disability Access Commission, 7 p.m., 834 Lake Street
 - HPC Education Committee, 7:30 p.m., room 124
- Thursday, April 28:
 - Community Relations Commission, 6 p.m., room 124
 - CDCAC, 6:30 p.m., room 201
 - Special Plan Commission Meeting, 7 p.m., room 101
- Friday, April 29:
 - No scheduled meetings

Upcoming Meetings and Events:

- Tuesday, May 3
 - Reinventing Government Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m., Room 130

Earth Fest is Saturday – The Village's seventh annual celebration of green living - [Earth Fest](#) - is scheduled for 10 a.m. to 2 p.m., Saturday (April 23) in the [Public Works Center](#). This year's event will include food trucks from [Happy Lobster](#), [Yum Dum](#), [Cupcakes for Courage](#) and [Grill Chasers](#). Information booths highlighting local environmental organizations and initiatives also will be there, including recycling booths.

Downtown construction updates – Traffic flow on Lake Street will be disrupted beginning Monday, as sewer and water work related to the Oak Park Station redevelopment project gets underway. While the east bound lane of Lake Street will be closed during construction hours of 7 a.m. to 3 p.m., flaggers will be on hand to facilitate two-way traffic. Steel plates will be used where necessary to keep Lake Street open to traffic after each workday ends. Initial streetscape activities also are set to begin Monday at Lake Street and Forest Avenue as Vantage Oak Park moves closer to completion. The work is expected to continue into June, and will require closing the sidewalk on the south side of the project on Lake Street. Related work by the garage entrance on Forest Avenue also may temporarily affect the garage traffic, but will not prevent vehicle entry.

South Boulevard streetscape update – Crews began removing trees and pavement on South Boulevard this week, as the long-awaited streetscape improvement project got underway between Marion Street and Harlem Avenue. The roadway will remain closed to all traffic for about a month, then limited to west-bound-only traffic for an additional month. In addition to much-needed underground infrastructure improvements, the project includes enhancing pedestrian and cyclist access with wider sidewalks, shorter intersection crosswalk distances, improved lighting and public seating.

Arbor Day activities planned – Sixth grade students from [Julian Middle School](#) will join officials from the Village, Park District and state to plant and tag trees in celebration of [Arbor Day](#), Fri. April 29. The event is scheduled for 1 p.m., in [Austin Gardens](#). In addition to planting two new trees, students will place information tags on 34 unique species of trees in the park.

Chief to lead underage drinking discussion – Police Chief Rick Tanksley will join county and state elected officials and representatives of several area community organizations at a public discussion of how to talk to children and teens about the dangers of alcohol. The meeting is scheduled for 6:30 to 8 p.m., Wed., April 27, in the Veterans Room of the main branch of the [Oak Park Public Library](#). The meeting is sponsored by the [Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration \(SAMHSA\)](#), an agency within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Pet licensing update – Annual license renewal reminder notices have been sent to more than 3,500 pet owners in Oak Park. The notices provide recipients with information to renew online and receive the new tags via the U.S. Mail. Licenses still can be renewed by mail and in person at Village Hall. The renewal deadline this year is May 15. The annual license fee of \$25 is reduced to \$10 for a spayed or neutered animal. Owners must show proof of a current rabies inoculation before a license will be issued to a new pet.

Fire Department report – Fire crews responded to 550 calls for service in March, bringing the annual total to 1,675 calls. So far this year the number of calls is on a pace similar to last year's record high. Emergency medical services represented 66 percent of all calls in March, with the 365 EMS calls considered higher than normal for a month. Fire Department personnel had contact with 373 patients in March, transporting 277 individuals to a medical facility. Advanced life support services were required for 141 of those transported. The Department responded to eight fires in March, three of which were in structures. All fires were contained to the room of origin and no injuries were reported. The most significant structure fire was in a multifamily apartment building in the 800 block of South Humphrey

Avenue that caused heavy smoke and heat damage, and required the temporary evacuation of the building's 18 residents.

Alley and sidewalk improvements update – Sewer lines now have been installed in six alleys, and concrete pavement has been completed in two alleys, with most of the work in the southern portion of the Village so far. Thirteen residents within the alley project area have signed up to have their garage aprons replaced at the Village's contract unit price. All sidewalk projects north of Lake Street between Austin Boulevard and Ridgeland Avenue have been completed. Sidewalk work will continue next week, moving west toward Oak Park Avenue. Engineering Division staff is discussing a historical sidewalk project for construction later this summer.

Non-Village construction projects – The Chicago sewer project that is detouring eastbound traffic on Madison Street in Oak Park is expected to wrap up in the next two weeks. [Improvements to the CTA Green Line](#) tracks through Oak Park continued as well, with work occurring after rush hour on Fridays and ending before rush hour on Monday for several more weekends, likely into June. Nicor crews continued parkway and property restorations at various locations in north Oak Park where new mains and services were installed. ComEd crews will be performing miscellaneous maintenance work in several alleys north of Madison Street and west of Harvey Avenue.

Public Works Activities –Streets Division crews swept permit parking areas and business districts, marked parking spaces with thermoplastic material, delivered compost to the Rehm Pool parking lot for residents to use, removed litter and filled potholes. Water & Sewer Division crews repaired a sinkhole on the southeast corner of Lombard Avenue and Thomas Street, a water service leak at 1012 S. Grove Ave., a catch basin frame at 919 Ontario St. and a sewer lateral at 615 N. Grove Ave. Forestry Division crews continued preparing for the upcoming planting season, tagging trees and marking locations. Spring landscaping continued throughout the Village, as did routine Forestry tasks such as responding to resident requests, removing ash trees and preparing trees planted last fall for continued watering in the coming summer.

Community center open house set – The Park District will host a community open house from 5 to 8 p.m., Wed., April 27 at Cheney Mansion to discuss the feasibility study underway for an indoor community recreation center. Residents are invited to review initial concepts for amenities, ask questions and provide input. More details are posted at www.pdop.org.

Employee news – The Police Department welcomed two new commanders at a swearing in ceremony this week at Village Hall. Michael Hunter Sr. and Tyler Partyka have spent the week getting to know senior Village staff and their operations. Michael comes to the Village after two years with the Chicago Police Department. A captain in the U.S. Army Reserves, he has a bachelor's degree in law enforcement management and a master's degree in public safety administration from Calumet College, and is pursuing a doctorate in business administration with a concentration in criminal justice from North Central University. Prior to joining the Oak Park force, Tyler was an investigative sergeant with the Chicago Police Department's Bureau of Organized Crime. He has a bachelor's degree in administration of justice from South Illinois University, a master's degree in criminal/social justice from Lewis University and is a graduate of the staff and command school at Northwestern University's Center for Public Safety.

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